

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/611,468	STRUNK
	Examiner Katherine W. Mitchell	Art Unit 3677

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/12/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16 and 18-29.
3. The drawings filed on 6/30/2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date with this action .
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other 7 and 8 same doc.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin Farrell on 2/7/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

3. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to add --non-threaded-- directly before "driven fastener" in line 1 of each claim.
4. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to add after "directly to said impact surface" and BEFORE the comma, in line 4 of claims 1 and 22: -- prior to said fastener being driven, said filler material not extending past the head or crossmember -- .
5. Claim 11 has been amended to add after "directly to said impact surface of the head" and BEFORE the comma, in line 4 of claim 11: -- prior to said fastener being driven, said filler material not encasing the entire fastener body-- .
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The plug of filler material must be directly connected to the impact surface itself. Since the impact surface has been claimed separately from the head or crossmember, the plug must be on the impact side of the head or crossmember, and the head or crossmember must penetrate the workpiece. The plug must be directly connected to the impact surface

prior to the fastener being driven – the fastener cannot be countersunk and then have the plug connected to the impact surface, and the plug is not a continuous coating material on the entire fastener, such as a coating for insulation or rustproofing, but rather a discrete plug:

plug (plüg) noun

1. An object, such as a cork or a wad of cloth, used to fill a hole tightly; a stopper.
2. A dense mass of material that obstructs a passage.
 3. A usually cylindrical or conic piece cut from something larger, often as a sample. ¹

Examiner notes that --non-threaded-- refers to screw threads, and that ribbed nails are not considered threaded. Note that claim 11, directed to a nail, inherently exclude3s threaded fasteners, but could include ribbed roofing or plaster nails.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

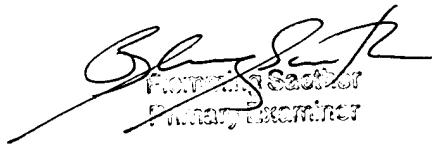
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine W. Mitchell whose telephone number is 703-305-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kwm
2/7/2005



Handwritten signature of Brian J. Swann, followed by his title: Examiner, Patent Examiner.